

Message Text

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1. SUMMARY

RECENT NEWS ITEMS SUPPORT RECORD GRAIN CLAIMS AND EXPECTED PRC BORROWINGS FROM FOREIGN BANKS. THE FIRST PEASANT CONGRESSES WERE HELD IN SEVERAL PROVINCES. INTERNATIONALLY, THE PRC INTENSIFIED CIVIL AVIATION ACTIVITIES WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INITIALED A SHIPPING AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE, SIGNED A NEW SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT WITH ALBANIA AND AN AID AGREEMENT WITH UPPER VOLTA. ON THE TRADE SIDE, THE PRC CONCLUDED THEIR FIRST JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH CANADA AND SUGGESTED THAT FRANCE'S SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL FAIR IN PEKING FEATURE HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS. JAPAN QUADRUPLUED ITS SALE JOF MOTOR VEHICLES TO PRI8, 1973. CONFIDENTIAL

2. NEWS ITEMS LEND CREDENCE TO RECORD GRAIN CLAIM

A NUMBER OF PROVINCIAL NEWS ITEMS LEND CREDENCE TO THE PRC CLAIM, VOICED OFFICIALLY AT THE FAO MEETING IN ROME LAST MONTH, THAT THIS YEAR'S TOTAL GRAIN CROP WILL EXCEED 1971'S 250 MILLION TONS. NINE PROVINCES ACCOUNTING FOR 50 PERCENT OF CHINA'S CULTIVATED ACREAGE CLAIM NEW RECORD OUTPUTS, WHICH WOULD MEAN LARGER THAN 1971 AS WELL AS 1972. ANOTHER EIGHT PROVINCES ACCOUNTING FOR THIRD OF CHINAGQS CULTIVATED ACREAGE MAKE CLAIMS THAT TOTAL OVER 5 PERCENT GREATER THAN 1972. ONE SOBERING NOTE IN THE NEWS ITEMS IS THE ALMOST CONSTANT REFERENCES TO WEATHER DIFFICULTIES THIS YEAR-- NOT AS BAD AS 1972 BUT STILL A PROBLEM. THIS EMPHASIS ON OVERCOMING NATURE MAY BE DISIGNED IN PART TO SPUR ON AGRICULTURAL CONSTRUCTION DURING THE SLACK WINTER SEASON, HOPEFULLY TO LAY THE BASE FOR FURTHER INCREASES IN 1974 NECESSARY TO EVEN KEEP PACE WITH POPULATION GROWTH. BUT SHORTAGES COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT ADVERSE EFFECT BY THEN, TOO. UNCLASSIFIED

3. PRC BORROWING FROM FOREIGN BANKS

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IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PRC NOW ACCEPTS IN PRINCIPLE BORROWING FROM FOREIGN BANKS IN THE FORM OF TERM DEPOSITS IN THE BANK OF CHINA (BOC) (SEE PEKING 1589, HK 11293). ISSUES THAT REMAIN ARE TERMS, PRIMARILY INTEREST RATES. IN PAST MONTH THERE HAVE BEEN TWO STORIES BOTH OUT OF TOKYO WHICH SAID (A) PRC HAD AGREED TO BORROW FROM JAPANESE BANK AND (B) THAT PRC WAS BORROWING \$100 MILLION FROM NON-JAPANESE BANK VIA BOC HONG KONG. JAPANESE SOURCES DENY FIRST STORY. BANK OF CHINA, HK, CLAIMS IT HAS "NO KNOWLEDGE" OF SECOND TRANSACTION, STATEMENT WHICH LEAVES IMPLICATION THAT IDEA ITSELF IS PERFECTLY CONCEIVABLE. WE ARE CHECKING FURTHER . (SEE HK 12213) CONFIDENTIAL

4. ORGANIZING POOR AND LOWER-MIDDLE PEASANTS

PROVINCIAL LEVEL CONGRESSES OF POOR AND LOWER-MIDDLE PEASANTS (PLMP) HAVE OCCURRED IN HUNAN, ANHWEI, HUPEH AND SHENSI. HUNAN'S BEGAN NOVEMBER 17 AND ENDED 17 DAYS LATER (RS DECEMBER 4). ANHWEI COMMENCED A WEEK AFTER HUNAN AND HUPEH AND SHENSI FOLLOWED ON DECEMBER 5. HUNAN'S PACE-SETTING ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO ITS PARTY FIRST SECRETARY HUA KUO-FENG, ONE OF THE NEW, YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE POLITBUREAU, WHO APPEARS TO HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS.

DELAYS IN HOLDING PLMP CONGRESSES WERE CAUSED PARTLY BY (A) WISHING TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH AGRICULTURAL WORK, (B) PROBABLY SOME PEASANT RESISTANCE TO IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION AND (C) POSSIBLY SOME DISAGREEMENT OVER HOW FAR AND HOW FAST TO PUSH SOCIALIZATION IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE.

OF THE FOUR CONGRESSES, HUNAN AND SHENSI CALLED THE PLMP THE "STRONG PILLAR" OF THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE ANHWEI DAILY EDITORIAL DID, TOO. THIS PHRASE, FOR A LONG TIME APPLIED ONLY TO THE PLA, WAS SOMETIMES BUT NOT ALWAYS USED TO DESCRIBE THE TRADE UNIONS WHEN THEY WERE BEING ORGANIZED EARLIER THIS YEAR. AT THAT TIME IT APPEARED TO BE ONE INDEX OF PROVINCIAL APPROVAL FOR RE-ESTABLISHING THAT MASS ORGANIZATION.

WHILE PLMP CONGRESSES ARE PERHAPS PRIMARILY POLITICAL
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IN PROVIDING ANOTHER MEANS OF ORGANIZING SOCIAL GROUPS FOR INDOCTRINATION, SOME ECONOMIC FACETS ALSO SHOW THROUGH. PEASANT APATHY AND RESISTANCE TO IDEOLOGY ARE INDICATED BY DESCRIBING THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN "TWO LINES" (ON POLICY WITHIN THE PARTY) AND "TWO ROADS" (ON ACTIVITY LEADING TOWARD SOCIALISM OR CAPITALISM) AS BEING "ACUTE AND COMPLEX" IN RURAL AREAS. (THE CONCOMITANT EMPHASIS ON UNITING WITH THE "TWO 95 PERCENT GROUPS" INDICATES THE NEED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL WORK TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR THE PARTY LINE.) THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AS "EXCELLENT" COUPLED WITH THE INSISTENCE ON THE NEED TO INCREASE BOTH AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND OUTPUT BESPEAKS A GOOD HARVEST THIS YEAR BUT ALSO RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR MORE AGRICULTURAL CONSTRUCTION IN ORDER TO IMPROVE NEXT YEAR'S PROSPECTS. ITS IDEOLOGICAL CONTENT NO DOUBT RELATES TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER COLLECTIVIZATION ALONE CAN INCREASE OUTPUT BY MOTIVATIONAL MEANS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL REAL INPUTS. HERE ANHWEI APPEARS TO BE BREAKING NEW GROUND IN CALLING FOR THE "CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SOCIALIST RURAL AREAS" (RS NOVEMBER 27). THE PICTURE, HOWEVER, IS CLOUDED BECAUSE THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE IS NOT YET CLEAR. IT COULD BE AS RADICAL AS A CALL FOR MORE COLLECTIVIZATION, AS INNOCUOUS AS THE BUILD-

ING OF STATE FARMS OR AT LEAST SEPARATE UNITS FOR EDUCATED
YOUTH SENT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, AS IDEOLOGICAL AS A WHIPPING
UP OF ENTHUSIASM FOR (OR LIP-SERVICE TO) SOCIALIST GOALS,
OR AS DEFENSIVE AS AN ATTEMPT TO LIGHT A BACKFIRE TO PREVENT
FURTHER DEPARTURES FROM CULTURAL REVOLUTION NORMS. CONFIDENTIAL

5. INCREASED INTEREST IN CIVIL AVIATION

SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD INDICATE A QUICKENING INTEREST IN CIVIL MATTERS BY PRC AND ITS ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL AIR PARTNERS. FINLAND ANNOUNCED AN AGREEMENT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A ROUTE THAT IS PRESUMED TO INCLUDE PEKING AND TOKYO (SEE HELSINKI 2978 AND 3011). SCANDANAVIAN AIRWAYS EXPECTS TO BEGIN SERVICE VIA MOSCOW IN EARLY 1974. TWO MAJOR NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, ARE DRAGGING. ONLY SLIGHT PROGRESS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE (SEE HK 12362) WHILE BRITISH AIRWAYS
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SERVICE VIA HONG KONG WILL PROBABLY NOT BEGIN BEFORE MID-1974 (PEKING 1552). ON DECEMBER 8, CAAC DIRECTOR MA JEN-HUI HOSTED A PEKING RECEPTION FOR A VISITING 113-MEMBER FRENCH DELEGATION (INCLUDING TRANSPORT MINISTER GUENA) TO BELATEDLY MARK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR FRANCE DIRECT FLIGHTS TO PEKING. THE AIRLINE INAUGURATED SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 6 (HK 9021). PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT INDICATION OF THE PRC'S CIVIL INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS ITS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN ICAO BEGINNING WITH THE 21ST ASSEMBLY SESSION (MONTREAL 2307. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9059
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6. JAPAN: MOTOR VEHICLE SALES QUADRUPLE IN 1973

JAPANESE MOTOR VEHICLE SALES AT THIS FALL'S CANTON TRADE FAIR TOTALLED 4,388 VEHICLES FROM TOYOTA (MOSTLY TWO MT TRUCKS) AND MITSUBISHI (MOSTLY 5.5 MT TRUCKS) WORTH \$149 MILLION (YEN 4.2 BILLION). SUCH SALES THIS YEAR NOW TOTAL 16,356 VEHICLES (ALL TYPES) WORTH \$852 MILLION (YEN 23.95 BILLION) COMPARED WITH 4,184 (\$43.8 MILLION) FOR ALL OF 1972. WHILE SALES HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, OUR HK JAPAN CONGEN SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE PROFIT MARGIN PER VEHICLE HAS BEEN VERY SMALL AND TO MAKE THIS TRADE PROFITABLE, THE THREE JAPANESE FIRMS INVOLVED (TOYOTA, ISUZU AND MITSUBISHI) NOW HOPE TO SUPPLY PARTS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE VEHICLES ALREADY SOLD. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

7. CANADA: FIRST JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING

A CANADIAN TRADE DELEGATION LED BY DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER R.E. LATIMER DEPARTED PEKING DECEMBER 8, AFTER ATTENDING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SINO-CANADIAN JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE
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(NCNA). ESTABLISHED UNDER A TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED DURING PREMIER TRUDEAU'S OCTOBER VISIT, THE COMMITTEE IS A MORE FORMAL VERSION OF THE ANNUAL "TRADE CONSULTATIONS" HELD PREVIOUSLY AND WILL MEET ANNUALLY (IN ALTERNATE CAPITALS) TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS (HK 10402, PEKING 1220).

ACCORDING TO A HK CANADIAN COMMISSION SOURCE, THE SESSION ARRANGED FOR CHINESE STUDY GROUPS IN FOREST TECHNOLOGY, HYDROELECTRIC POWER AND DAM CONSTRUCTION, AND OIL PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY TO VISIT CANADA NEXT YEAR. IN RETURN A CANADIAN CONSULTING ENGINEERING DELEGATION WILL VISIT THE PRC. DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD ON LONG-TERM COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, BUT NONE WERE CONCLUDED. LACK OF CANADIAN SUPPLY IN SCRAP IRON, WOOD PULP, CHEMICAL FIBER AND ALUMINUM AND CHINESE DISINTEREST IN OTHER PRODUCTS CONTINUE TO PREVENT MORE THAN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE VALUE OF LONG TERM COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

8. FRANCE: SHIPPING AGREEMENT AND TRADE FAIR IN 1974

A CHINESE SHIPPING DELEGATION LED BY COMMUNICATIONS VM YU MEI LEFT PARIS DECEMBER 3 AFTER INITIALING A MARITIME SHIPPING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT (NCNA). TO BE SIGNED IN PEKING NEXT YEAR, THE AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY PROVIDES FOR INCREASED USE OF CHINESE AND FRENCH SHIPS IN

BILATERAL TRADE, FACILITIES LANDING ARRANGEMENTS AND ENSURES REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES (REUTER PARIS, DEC. 6). THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH FOLLOWED PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S PEKING VISIT NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD "DECIDED TO SIGN" A SHIPPING AGREEMENT (HK 9410), BUT NEGOTIATIONS APPARENTLY DATE FROM THE VISIT OF A FRENCH MARITIME DELEGATION TO PEKING IN JULY (ER 16, HK 8028). UNCLASSIFIED

FRANCE WILL STAGE A TWO-WEEK INDUSTRIAL FAIR IN PEKING BEGINNING MAY 16, 1974. ACCORDING TO A FRENCH TRADE OFFICER IN HK, THE CHINESE HAVE ASKED THAT THE EXHIBITION FEATURE HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS SUCH AS COMPUTERS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS GEAR, HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND PETROCHEMICALS. A 17-MEMBER DELEGATION LED BY COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN FAIRS DIRECTOR CONFIDENTIAL

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GUILLOT VISITED PEKING DECEMBER 2-9 TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXHIBITION (AFP PEKING, DEC. 9). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

9. ALBANIA: NEW SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENTS

THE 15TH SESSION OF THE SINO-ALBANIAN JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION CONCLUDED WITH THE SIGNING OF A PROTOCOL IN TIRANA ON DECEMBER 12. THE DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY PRC DELEGATION LEADER SNA DLIGHT INDUSTRY VM CHEN WEI-CHI AND ALBANIAN STATE PLANNING COMMISSION VP JANI MIHO. ADIL CARCANI, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, ATTENDED THE SIGNING CEREMONY (NCNA). RANK OF THE DELEGATION LEADERS AND LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY WERE IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE 14TH SESSION HELD IN PEKING IN 1971. STRAINS NOTED EARLIER IN SINO-ALBANIAN RELATIONS (HK 12009) ARE THUS NOT APPARENT IN THE AREA OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

EARLIER, THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CAS) AND ITS ALBANIAN COUNTERPART SIGNED A SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND AN EXECUTIVE PLAN FOR 1974 IN PEKING ON NOVEMBER 21 (NCNA). THE DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED BY CAS PRESIDENT KUO MO-JO AND ALBANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CHAIRMAN ALEKS TAQI BUDA. THE NEW AGREEMENT, WHICH COVERS ACADEMIC COOPERATION, REPLACES ONE SIGNED IN 1964.

MEANWHILE, AN ALBANIAN COMMUNICATIONS DELEGATION LED BY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER MILO OIRKO LEFT PEKING NOVEMBER 18 AFTER AN EIGHTEEN-DAY VISIT TO THE PRC (NCNA). UNCLASSIFIED

10. UPPER VOLTA: AID AGREEMENT SIGNED

NCNA, DECEMBER 5, REPORTED THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BY VOLTESE FOREIGN

MINISTER CONOMBO AND PRC AMBASSADOR HSIEH IN OUAGADOUGOU ON
DECEMBER 3. THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR A CHINESE LOAN OF
ABOUT \$50 MILLION REPAYABLE IN 25 YEARS FOLLOWING A TEN YEAR
GRACE PERIOD (OUAGADOUGOU 2495).
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN FOUR MONTHS THAT NCNA HAS
ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERA-
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TION AGREEMENT BETWEEN UPPER VOLTA AND THE PRC. ON
SEPTEMBER 15, NCNA ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE SIGNING
IN PEKING OF AN AID AGREEMENT BY COLOMBO AND PRC FOREIGN
MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI. THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS SUGGESTS THE
FIRST AGREEMENT WAS GENERAL IN NATURE AND THE LATTER DEALT
SPECIFICALLY WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE LOAN. LIMITED
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11. PRC RED CROSS DONATION TO SOUTH VIETNAM

IN A TELEGRAM TO THE SVN RED CROSS SOCIETY FOR LIBERA-
TION, CHINA'S RED CROSS, NOVEMBER 27, ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION
TO DONATE FIVE MILLION RMB FOR THE RELIEF OF TYPHOON AND
FLOOD VICTIMS. IN 1970 AND 1971, THE PRC MADE IDENTICAL
NOVEMBER DONATIONS OF FIVE MILLION RMB TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
COMMUNISTS. AS IN THE PAST, PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI ALSO
EXPRESSED SYMPATHY IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE TO PRG LEADERS
(NCNA). INCLUDING THIS GIFT, CHINESE RED CROSS AID HAS GONE
TO 14 COUNTRIES THIS YEAR. UNCLASSIFIED

12. RECENT REPORTS ON ECONOMIC TOPICS

HK 12183 AVAILABILITY OF TELEX SERVICE AT THE 1974 SPRING
CANTON TRADE FAIR
HK 12184 ACTIVITIES OF NCUSCT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AT
THE CANTON FAIR
HK 12207 1973 FALL CANTON TRADE FAIR
HK 12499 PRC THIRD QUARTER 1973 TRADE RETURNS: FACING A DEFICIT
HK 12546 REPORT OF LARGE FOREIGN LOAN TO PRC NOT CONFIRMED
HK 12564 SINO-JAPANESE TRADE AGREEMENT INITIALED IN PEKING
HK A-318 CHINA'S MERCHANT MARINE.
OSBORN

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